

Lastly, depending on the makeup of the Congress, it's important that somebody be here that stops some of the more extreme things that would have happened if I hadn't had the great good fortune, thanks to so many of you, to be standing here in the way of some things, as well as trying to get some things going.

So I just want to—I have learned—one of the reporters asked me earlier today if I really thought it was bad that I had had to work and hadn't been out on the campaign trail, and I said, “No, I'm not running, and I shouldn't have been out before now.” And I'm actually probably the only person in the room that's been on the other end of this deal, because I remember when President Reagan came to Arkansas in 1984, and he was more popular than you can imagine down there. And we both did just fine in the elections, so—[laughter]—if you get my drift.

I don't seek to tell anybody how to vote, but I do seek to say, based on my experience—because everybody knows who I'm for—but based on my experience, which unfortunately is getting longer every year, I don't know when we'll ever have another time like this. I've done everything I could to turn this country around, to pull this country together, to move our country forward. But we've got this huge opportunity here, that we can literally paint a picture of the future and make it happen, if we keep the prosperity going, instead of put it at risk by going into deficit; if we build on the progress of the last 8 years, instead of reverse those policies which brought it; if we keep working to build one America; and then if we take home the big challenges of the future.

I just think, if you go out and tell people that, tell young people that, they will understand what is at issue, and they will show up. And in a free society, that's all any of us can ask: Show up. Know what the differences are; have clarity on that. Make your decision, and the rest of us will happily embrace it. I think it will be quite a good decision if we get everybody there.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:58 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to John J. Johnson, director, National

Programs Department, NAACP; Norman Hill, president, A. Philip Randolph Institute; Wade Henderson, executive director, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, executive director and chief operating officer, Black Leadership Forum, Inc.; Weldon H. Latham, senior partner, Holland and Knight, and general counsel, National Coalition of Minority Businesses; and former Senator Dale Bumpers. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Provide a Plaque Commemorating Martin Luther King's “I Have a Dream” Speech

October 27, 2000

I am proud to sign legislation today authorizing placement of a marker commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic “I Have a Dream” speech at the Lincoln Memorial. Few leaders in American history have spoken with the eloquence, passion, and moral force that Dr. King did that day, uttering words that, a generation later, still echo in our hearts.

His call to action captured the spirit of an America struggling to fulfill its promise of freedom, of a democracy yet to honor all of its citizens. Even today, his words still inspire millions of people around the world who believe in the extraordinary power of non-violent change to bring about social justice.

Let all who visit the Lincoln Memorial pause to reflect upon Dr. King's words and strive to make that dream real in their hearts and daily lives.

NOTE: H.R. 2879, approved October 27, was assigned Public Law No. 106-365. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on Signing an Executive Order Creating the Commission on Workers, Communities, and Economic Change in the New Economy

October 27, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign an Executive order creating a Commission on Workers,